



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114-2119

Deval L. Patrick
GOVERNOR

Timothy P. Murray
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ian A. Bowles
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

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Contact: Robert Keough
(617) 626-1109
Lisa Capone
(617) 626-1109

**DTE COMMISSIONER KEATING NAMED
TO PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

BOSTON – Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles has named W. Robert Keating as a commissioner of the Commonwealth Utilities Commission, effective April 11, 2007.

Created by the Governor's Article 87 Cabinet Reorganization Bill, which passed the Legislature in February by unanimous roll call votes in both houses, the new three-member Commonwealth Utilities Commission oversees the Department of Public Utilities, the regulatory agency responsible principally for energy matters.

Keating is currently a commissioner of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy, which the CUC will replace. Paul Hibbard has been named chairman of the CUC, and Timothy Woolf has also been named a commissioner. Hibbard and Woolf have been appointed to four-year terms, coterminous with the Governor's. Keating has been appointed to a two-year term, in a seat that will subsequently be appointed for four-year terms staggered with the Governor's – a provision intended to create continuity over time.

The Article 87 legislation provides that no more than two commissioners can be registered in one political party. Hibbard and Woolf are registered Democrats; Keating is registered as unenrolled.

"Bob Keating is a nationally known expert on natural gas and a seasoned utility regulator," said Secretary Bowles. "As we embark on a new era in utility regulation to drive forward the Governor's goals of lower energy costs, greater energy efficiency, and strong growth in renewable power, Bob will provide important continuity from the previous commission and added stability to the Commonwealth's regulatory environment for the energy sector."

Appointed by Gov. Paul Cellucci and reappointed by governors Jane Swift and Mitt Romney, Keating has served as a commissioner of DTE since February 1998. Keating is on the board of directors for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and is currently

chairman of the board of directors for the National Regulatory Research Institute. He is also a member of the National Petroleum Council, appointed by the US Secretary of Energy. Prior to his government service, Keating was a consultant on energy and environmental issues. He also previously worked for Tenneco, a conglomerate with business in natural gas pipelines, and for Boston Edison. He holds a master's degree in civil/environmental engineering from University of Maine–Orono and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from University of Massachusetts–Amherst.

Governor Patrick's Cabinet reorganization bill replaced the Department of Telecommunications and Energy with the Department of Public Utilities, and moved it into the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The reorganization goes into effect April 11, 2007.

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